

MKS

13 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Public Law 87-367, "AN ACT To increase the limitation on the number of positions which may be placed in the top grades of the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, to provide certain additional research and development positions, and for other purposes."

1. Public Law 87-367 was approved by the President on 4 October 1961. It created 15 new jobs paying the equivalent of GS 16-18 for the National Security Agency and 465 supergrade jobs under the Classification Act of 1949 to be distributed among various Federal agencies as the need arises. Some of the 465 were earmarked for specific agencies or purposes while others are to be retained in the Civil Service Commission pool until agencies make requests for them.

2. 280 new scientific and engineering jobs were created with salary ranging from \$12,500 to \$19,000 in most cases. 13 of these were earmarked for the Federal Aviation Agency for which pay could rise to \$19,500 and 17 in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with pay up to \$21,000. 135 of the new science-engineering jobs were allocated to NASA.

3. The Act transferred 451 existing Classification Act supergrade jobs which were previously assigned directly to different agencies to the technical control of the Civil Service Commission. It created 2 new jobs at \$20,000 under the Federal Executive Pay Act for the General Counsel and the Public Affairs Advisor of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. It increased the pay of 23 administrators whose salary scale was governed by the Federal Executive Pay Act of 1956 and transferred 15 jobs previously governed by the later Act to the jurisdiction of the Classification Act. Both of these changes were made because pay increases under the Classification Act had surged

ahead of those under the Federal Executive Pay Act with the result that in some cases administrators under the Executive Pay Act were receiving less salary than subordinates whose pay is established under the Classification Act.

4. The 480 classified and NSA supergrade jobs and 280 science jobs authorized by the Act fell below the 622 classified and NSA jobs and the 334 science-engineering positions requested by the Administration. The Administration request that regulatory agency trial examiners be removed from under the Classification Act and placed in a new two-step system (which would have placed 222 trial examiners in the equivalent of supergrade jobs) was not approved by either House of Congress. An Administration request for 4 new science positions in the Library of Congress was approved by the Senate but dropped in conference as was a House provision permitting House committee staff members to be paid up to \$18,000. The conferees indicated the question of staff pay increases for both the House and Senate would be taken up at one time in future legislation and emphasized that the staff pay increase had not been rejected but merely postponed.

5. In addition to job authorizations, the Act contained, in part, the following provisions:

a. It was stated to be the sense of Congress that all Administration requests in changing supergrade position status should be channeled through the House and Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committees;

b. The Act limited the proportion of GS 18 jobs to 12% of all supergrade jobs, and the proportion of GS 17 to 25%;

c. It was stated that if any more supergrades were created by any other legislation in the 87th Congress and assigned to specific agencies, the Civil Service Commission should, if possible, subtract an equivalent number from the number made available to that agency from the Civil Service Commission pool;

d. The Act requires NASA to submit annual reports to Congress stating who was filling the specific science-engineering and other top salary jobs within the agency.

6. It is noted that the amendment to section 106(a) of the Federal Executive Pay Act of 1956 set forth in section 303(a) of this Act established the position of General Counsel, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency at item 48. Public Law 87-322, approved 26 September 1961, established at the same item and sections of the Federal Executive Pay Act the position General Counsel of the General Accounting Office.



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Orig - Subj.

1 - Signer

1 - Chrono.